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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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P'ENG Chen (彭真) has been nominated to be successor to JEN Pi-shih, Chinese Communist mentor who died in October 1950. P'ENG retains his posts as secretary of the Peiping Municipal Party Committee, which he has held since early 1949, and mayor of Peiping, to which he was elected in February 1951. He has no specific duties on the Politburo except to attend meetings.

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Comment. P'ENG

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Joined the Chinese Communist Party about 1927, becoming a leader of Shansi students and laborers, at one time being secretary of the Cheng-T'ai Railroad Labor Union. In 1930 he moved to the Peiping-Tientsin area where he was imprisoned until 1937. In Yenan, some years later, he was in charge of the cadre training program as vice president of the Party headquarters school.

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Other positions now held by P'ENG include membership in the Central Committee and North China Bureau of the Party. He was a delegate to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and is a member of the National Committee of the Conference. He is a vice-chairman of the Committee of Political and Legal Affairs of the Government Administrative Council and President of the Peiping Sino-Soviet Friendship Association.

Comment. The report does not state that P'ENG has been nominated to any specific position once held by JEN. It may be that P'ENG is now a member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, as he has been an alternate member there while JEN was a full member.

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